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Bulova Byline
Chairman's Monthly Report
April 2010



- With ultra-snowy February and windy March behind us, you can find lots of evidence inside this Byline of **spring's arrival**. April is a month for spring cleaning, planting and spending time outdoors. I hope you'll be able to join me for some of the community events and activities that define this season –
 - ✓ the Occoquan River Clean-up Day on April 10th,
 - ✓ our official Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, April 24th,
 - ✓ cleaning up the damage left over from Snowmageddon.

Information about community clean-ups and debris removal can be found on the county's website at:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/spring-cleanup.htm>

- April is also the month when our **Fairfax County Budget** is adopted. I like to remind people that **a budget is not just about numbers. It is about philosophy.** When the Board of Supervisors adopts the budget, we are setting the priorities for our community – investing in the services and programs that we value, maintaining fiscal stewardship, and making sure that taxpayers' dollars are spent efficiently. It is important that members of our community have every opportunity to weigh in on these decisions.

Community engagement regarding the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget has been extensive, with eleven **Community Dialogues** held throughout the fall, which provided the County Executive guidance as he formulated his budget. Once the Advertised Budget was released last month, more than twenty **Town Meetings and Forums** were held throughout the County to receive feedback and reaction. Over 400 people have signed up to speak at Public Hearings scheduled for April 6, 7, and 8. The Advertised Budget will be "marked-up" (amended) on April 20th and formally adopted a week later.

More information about the budget and the budget process can be found by going to:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

- Contrary to media coverage, the **Snow Summit** our Board hosted on March 16th did not involve a “snowball fight”. The summit, details inside, provided a constructive and frank discussion of what went well, what did not, and “lessons learned.” The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) was thanked for securing and deploying plow crews to Fairfax County from not just other parts of the Commonwealth but from neighboring states as well. The coordinated emergency response efforts among state and county agencies received high marks. By pulling everyone together at the County’s new Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center we were able to activate volunteer Community Response Teams and National Guard troops who worked with police, fire and rescue, and VDOT to respond (sometimes in military Humvees) to emergency situations.



This coordination informed our decisions about when to safely re-open schools and offices. On the Presidents’ Day holiday, the Sheriff’s Department brought non-violent offenders (the Community Labor Force) to dig through icebergs of snow and ice covering sidewalks and trails leading to schools. Police officers were assigned to assist children being dropped off by their parents. The plowing of snow and ice over sidewalks was one of the things that *did not go well* and is something we are attempting to address. You can watch the Snow Summit by going to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/snowsummit/>.

A lot went well. Despite the record snowfalls and frigid weather, no lives were lost to Snowmageddon 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Bulova". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Earth Day / Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, April 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NVCC, Annandale Campus

To learn more about what you can do to help the local environment, come join me on Saturday **April 24, 2010 from 11-4** as we **celebrate Earth and Arbor Day at Northern Virginia Community College’s Annandale Campus**, located at 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. A ceremony to present awards to local environmental achievers will take place at 2 p.m. This free event is great for families and comes with great exhibits and demonstrations about how to protect and beautify our world. With activities ranging from a rock climbing wall to a petting zoo to exhibits by the Master Gardeners this event is fun and educational for the whole family. For more information, contact Clean Fairfax Council at 703-324-5471.

SNOW SUMMIT WRAP-UP

On March 16th the Board of Supervisors met with VDOT representatives for a “Snow Summit” to discuss the February snowstorms. VDOT is responsible for maintenance and snow removal in Fairfax County.

The rapid accumulation during the storms posed significant challenges for VDOT. VDOT and many of its hired contractor vehicles use pick-up trucks that are not capable of moving accumulations over a foot, while bigger trucks have difficulty negotiating subdivision streets.

Despite difficult conditions, there were also positive results. County emergency management staff and VDOT crews coordinated so that emergency services personnel could reach residents in need and enable repair crews to quickly restore lost power. The co-location of VDOT staff and County emergency management personnel at McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Center improved communication and familiarized staff from different agencies with the procedures and goals of their counterparts ensuring success.

At the summit, we heard from constituents that they want more real-time information available about when plows will come through their streets. VDOT staff indicated that they were piloting real-time tracking technology which would allow them to better direct resources in the future.

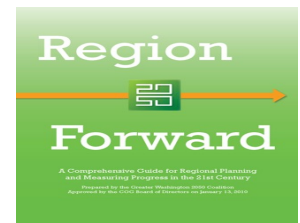
Supervisors also shared their constituents’ concerns about snow accumulation on sidewalks and at bus stops. To improve conditions, the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Community Labor Force (CLF), a supervised team of non-violent offenders from the County Adult Detention Center, responded to some of these problems and continues to work on clean-up efforts.

Despite the issues, our Board and many of the County residents who contacted us, greatly appreciate the dedication of everyone who worked to keep residents safe and make it possible for them to leave their homes. For more information on the Snow Summit and to view presentations visit:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/snowsummit>.

Region Forward

Fairfax County signs Greater Washington 2050 Compact!

At our March 23rd Board Meeting, my colleagues and I approved a new Regional Compact that serves as a



Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21st Century.

This initiative was led by the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) through a coalition of elected officials and stakeholders from Maryland, Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia.

By signing on to the Compact, jurisdictions agree to work together on nine regional goals related to: land use, transportation, environment, climate and energy, economics, housing, health and human services, education and public safety. These goals are consistent with established County policy goals outlined in the Policy Plan section of our Comprehensive Plan and will help our metropolitan area to work together, rather than at cross purposes, as we continue to mature. More information about the Compact and Region Forward can be found at

<http://www.greaterwashington2050.org/>



If you haven't yet visited The Lorton Workhouse Arts Center you've missed a real treat! In September the Workhouse celebrated its first anniversary and some significant milestones. Ten buildings, formerly part of the old Lorton Prison, were renovated into 40,000 square feet of space for art studios. Over 100 artists are now working and exhibiting in the galleries.

The Workhouse Institute offers hundreds of classes and has enrolled 3,000 students of all ages. They have held dozens of music, dance and theatrical performances, with seven outdoor musical concerts free of charge to the public. As spring unfolds, plan on spending time enjoying the arts! Information about the Workhouse can be found at <http://www.workhousearts.org/>.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day: If you are interested in helping clean up parks and natural areas of our County in honor of Earth Day, the Alice Ferguson Foundation is looking for volunteers to help their 22nd Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day on **Sat., April 10**. Volunteer clean ups are scheduled at several parks throughout the county this year. By participating, you could be part of an effort that since 1989 has removed over three million tons of trash from the watershed's streams, rivers, and bays. For more information, visit http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.shtml or call 703-324-8674.

Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps: April 18-24, 2010 is National Volunteer Week. The Fairfax County Health Department invites you to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). You do



not need a medical background to become a MRC volunteer. The Fairfax MRC is an all volunteer program

designed to augment the ability of our public health system to help our community during natural disasters and other types of emergencies.

Fairfax MRC volunteers recently played vital roles in Fairfax County's H1N1 vaccination campaign. Over 1,000 Fairfax MRC volunteers donated more than 18,000 hours to support this unprecedented effort during the 2009-2010 flu season.

It takes just ten hours of training to make a difference in your community. For more information about the Fairfax MRC, call 703-246-8641 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mrc.

CENSUS REMINDER



By now, you should have received a 2010 United States Census form, and hopefully have had a chance to complete it and mail it in. In case you have not, the Census consists of 10 simple questions about your household and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Although the questions are fairly simple, the data gathered is very important and determines how over \$400 billion dollars in federal funding are allocated each year.

If you did not receive a form, call the U.S. Census Bureau's Telephone Questionnaire Assistance center at 1-866-872-6868. If you prefer a Spanish-speaking operator, call 1-866-928-2010 instead. Call TDD at 1-866-783-2010. For more information about the Census, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/census/>.

SPRING CLEANING

The record-breaking snow fall in our area has left many of our yards covered in debris. The debris and fallen trees on public roadways are the responsibility of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), but any material remaining on residential property is the responsibility of the property owner. To help with your cleanup, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works wants to let residents know that all trash and recycling collection companies are required to collect up to ten bundles, bags or containers of brush placed at their customers' curbsides. For more information and restrictions, as well as a list of trash collection providers, call 703-324-5253 or visit:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/news-03-10-2010.htm>.

HOT LANES SPRING CONSTRUCTION



After a cold, snowy winter, road construction crews will be picking up the pace this spring on the I-495 HOT Lanes project.

Motorists can expect to see work on I-495 at Lewinsville Road, Oak Street, Arlington Boulevard (Route 50), Gallows Road (Route 650), Little River Turnpike (Route 236) and Braddock Road (Route 620). There will be traffic shifts and overnight detours while overpass spans are being demolished and rebuilt.

Over the summer and into the fall, bridge construction work will continue on Chain Bridge Road (Route 123), Westpark Overpass Leesburg Pike (Route 7), I-66, Idylwood Road, Route 29 (Lee Highway) and the Springfield Interchange, where the HOT Lanes will connect to I-95/395.

To receive updates on major construction activities and high-level lane closures for the HOT Lanes or any other Megaproject, sign up at the Virginia Megaprojects website:
<http://www.vamegaprojects.com/sign-up/>.

As you know, the Board of Supervisors and public raised significant concerns at the HOT Lanes project's public hearings regarding the number, locations, and heights of sound walls proposed to be constructed with this project. In response, the Virginia Department of

Transportation listened to these concerns and re-evaluated the sound wall issues, agreeing to add sound walls for almost the entire length of the project and to increase the height of walls above

what was originally planned at several locations along the Beltway. Sound walls infrastructure continues to go up and many noise walls have been added already.

Additionally, landscaping and reforestation efforts are underway. VDOT and Fluor-Lane have committed to develop landscaping plans for the project in coordination with adjacent communities, to help mitigate concerns with the tree canopy loss and take advantage of available green space as the project develops. Fairfax ReLeaf, a great non-profit organization in the county, has stepped in to coordinate these efforts and opportunities to help will become available this spring. For more information, visit:
www.fairfaxreleaf.org.

The HOT Lanes project is planned to be finished by December 2012.

SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM – *One Year Later*

The Secure Communities Program is administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE.) This program allows for ICE agents to check available criminal and immigration records of every individual booked by Sheriff's deputies when they enter the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. In addition, fingerprints of ALL individuals are submitted during the booking process and are checked automatically against the Department of Justice's criminal history records and the Department of Homeland Security's records.

In March 2009, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office became the first law enforcement agency in Virginia and the Washington Metropolitan area to partner with ICE to implement this program, and one year later, it has been deemed a great success. ICE, according to Sheriff Stan Barry, has been able to identify persons who are here illegally who have committed serious crimes in Fairfax County and deport them at no cost to Fairfax County. So far, ICE has removed 144 criminal aliens.

METRO SILVER LINE AND TYSONS UPDATE

- Here's a look at what you can expect from the Silver Line construction underway:

Caissons and piers, which will support foundations for at-grade and aerial track work, are being built in the median of the Dulles Connector Road (DCR) between I-66 and Route 123. You will continue to see more of these develop in the coming months.



Preliminary foundation work is taking place for the **Tysons Central 123** station at Route 123 between Tysons Blvd and International Drive near the

Tysons Corner Center and Tysons Galleria. Construction of the **Tysons East** station at the Colshire Drive intersection near Capital One will begin ramping up in the coming weeks.

Two Metrorail stations will be built on Route 7: **Tysons Central 7** (Marshall's Drive) and **Tysons West** (Spring Hill Road). Leesburg Pike (Route 7) will be expanded from 6 lanes to 8 lanes between Route 123 and the Dulles Toll Road as part of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail construction.

During construction, mid-block left turns along Route 7 will be eliminated. Left turns and U-turns will be allowed at signalized intersections. The service roads will close permanently by the end of the year to begin the expansion of Route 7. Access to all businesses will remain open. Work has begun on the western portion of the tunnel at the northwest cloverleaf at Route 7 and Route 123 along the Frontage Road.



Construction has started in the median of the Dulles International Airport Access Highway at grade level as well as near the future **Wiehle Avenue** station. Crews are clearing and preparing the median for Metrorail construction. A station will be built at Wiehle Avenue in Reston. The station, at grade level, will include pedestrian bridges from the north and south sides of the Toll Road. This station will be the terminus point of the Phase 1 Dulles Metrorail extension.

For the latest information on Metrorail construction, bookmark: www.dullesmetro.com.

- In concert with Metrorail and Metro station construction, county staff and our Planning Commission are working hard to plan for the redevelopment of Tysons. Staff recently released a draft Plan Amendment and proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment for the transformation of Tysons that take into account hundreds of comments received from the public.

You can view this latest draft of the Plan at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/>. The Planning Commission Public Hearing is scheduled for April 21 at 7:30 p.m. You may sign up to speak at the Planning Commission's website <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/speaker.htm> or by calling 703-324-2865.

The Tysons Plan will come to the Board of Supervisors for final approval in May.

SHREDDING & RECYCLING EVENTS

During the spring, summer and fall, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works will be hosting a series of document shredding and Electric Sunday recycling events throughout the County.

At document shredding events, residents can have up to five medium sized packing boxes worth of documents shredded. Electric Sunday events provide County residents the opportunity to recycle televisions, computers, monitors and computer peripheral electronic devices such as printers, scanners, speakers, keyboards, mice and external drives. Residents may also recycle their unbroken fluorescent tubes and light bulbs at Electric Sunday events. The document shredding events and Electric Sunday events are both available FREE to county residents.

Upcoming shredding events:

- April 24, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m., at Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale
- May 1, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton
- May 22, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Upcoming Electric Sunday recycling events:

- April 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax
- May 23, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax

To see a complete list of document shredding and recycling events throughout the County this year, visit:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/calendar.htm>.

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Our Board recognized Vietnam Veterans on March 23, 2010, by declaring March 30, 2010 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in Fairfax County. The tremendous controversy surrounding the Vietnam War resulted in many of these veterans being denied the well deserved support and appreciation for their service to our country at the time.

Chapter 227 of the Vietnam Veterans Association of America accepted the proclamation from the Board honoring these brave and faithful service members. The U.S. Congress proclaimed March 30 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" last year.

An interactive website, a "virtual" Vietnam War Memorial Wall, is available at: <http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>. This site allows you to look for individual names and provides biographical information on those lost in the Vietnam War. I encourage us all to observe this remembrance by taking the opportunity to thank these and all our veterans for their contributions and sacrifices to our country.

SAVE THE DATE – Sat., May 15 *Town Meeting on Lyme Disease*

Chairman Bulova and Providence District Supervisor Smyth are hosting a Town Meeting on Lyme disease with Special Guest, Congressman Gerry Connolly on Saturday, May 15, at the Fairfax County Government Center. The seminar will provide information about Lyme disease, how we can protect ourselves, and what the County is doing to monitor the disease.

The Town Meeting will feature a panel of experts on Lyme disease and a question and answer period in the Board auditorium. In addition, exhibits and displays will be set up from a wide variety of organizations.

For additional information about ticks and Lyme disease, please visit:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/wnvlyme.htm.